(7) To prevent the grant of patents for the medicinal use of plants which have long been in use in ISM.

(8) To encourage medical-tourism and promote ISM in foreign countries.

Nucleus Cochlear Implant Facility for impaired persons

1397. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new advanced medical device called "Nucleus Cochlear Implant Facility" can help severely impaired persons to hear speech and sounds has been developed;

(b) whether it has been acquired by All India Institute of Medical Sciences for offering this facility to needy persons;

(c) whether this facility will be acquired on a large scale and made available to all major hospitals; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Nucleus Cochlear Implant Facility, an electronic device which is surgically implanted in a hearing-impaired individual's ear, has been developed by Cochlear Corporation (Australia). Research has indicated that patients are able to perceive speech better through the multichannel cochlear implants than through single cochlear implants. In All India Institute of Medical Sciences, this facility is offered to suitable persons after proper evaluation for such an implant surgery. The cost of the multichannel cochlear implant is approximately Rs. 7.5 lakhs, for the implant and surgery. At present, there is no proposal to provide this facility on a large scale in major hospitals due to the cost factor and other operational difficulties.

Doctors gone to foreign countries for higher studies

1398. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of doctors with post graduate degrees in various subjects had gone to United States and other foreign countries to acquire higher degrees in heir respective fields and did not return to the country after completing their studies for want of proper opportunities in the country;